

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 14, 21-24, 26 and 27 were pending. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 14, 21-24, 26 and 27 were rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled or amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-14, 21-24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,023 of Sonnenberg ("Sonnenberg"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,822 of Braden-Harder ("Braden-Harder"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-14, 21-24, and 26-27 include limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, individually or in combination.

For example, independent claim 1 includes limitations of generating a set of common search requests for data based a frequency of previously received search requests (requesting the similar data). For example, more search requests are received for similar items or product data, such search requests are more popular and are identified as common search requests. As a result, a search result or results for these search requests are stored in the server.

Subsequently, when a similar search request is received and such a subsequent search request is recognized belonging to the common search requests. As a result, the previously stored search result or results for the common search requests are retrieved from the server and provided to the client, without having to perform a substantive search for the subsequent search request. The subsequent substantive search is only performed when the subsequent search request is not the one that belongs to the common search request. It is respectfully submitted that the above limitations are absent from the cited references, individually or in combination.

Although Sonnenberg discloses Internet search distribution via ISAs (Internet search agents), there is no disclosure within Sonnenberg that common search requests are identified and the search results are stored for subsequent similar searches without having to perform the substantive search for the subsequent search requests.

The Office Action contends that section of col. 5, lines 4-65 of Sonnenberg discloses the above described limitations. Specifically, the Office Action states:

“receiving a subsequent search request from a client device (122 fig.1), determining whether the subsequent search request is one of the common search requests and providing results without performing the subsequent search request if the subsequent search request is one of the common search requests (i.e., using Internet search agents ISA for searching information by accessing commercial search engines such as yahoo, Excite..., see col.5 lines 4-65).”

(see 6/15/2005 Office Action, pages 2-3).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited section of Sonnenberg (e.g., col. 5, lines 4-65) merely discloses how an ISA work. The fact that “the ISAs may accomplish Internet searching by accessing one or more commercial search engines, such as Yahoo, Excite, or Alta Vista” disclosed by Sonnenberg (see col. 5, lines 6-8 of Sonnenberg) does not read on the limitations set forth above. Particularly, there is no mention within Sonnenberg any of the search engine of identifying common search requests and storing the search results of the common search requests within the search engine for subsequent similar search requests.

In addition, although the Office Action acknowledges that Sonnenberg does not disclose the common search requests based on the frequency of the similar requests previously received, nevertheless, the Office Action contends that Braden-Harder discloses such limitations.

Specifically, the Office Action states:

“However, Braden-Harder discloses the step of based on the frequency of previously search requests (using conventional keyword search engine to calculate document's

statistics including frequency of each matching word, see Braden-Harder's fig.2, col.2 line 34 to col.3 line 6 and col.8 line 30 to col.9 line 43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Braden-Harder's teaching in to the computer system method of Sonnenberg to retrieve stored record of web documents into a dataset from World Wide Web because it would have enabled users to filter and to re-rank documents that are more relevant to a user-supplied query on the World Wide Web using a search engine (see Braden-Harder's col.7 lines 6-33)."

(6/15/2005 Office Action, page 3, emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. It is respectfully submitted that the frequency of keywords shown up in a document is used to rank that document in terms of relevancy for the search. Specifically, Braden-Harder states:

"For example, based on a total number of matching key words between those in the query and the content words in each retrieved document record and how well these words match, i.e., in the combination and/or within a proximity range requested, a statistical search engine calculates numeric measures, collectively frequently referred to as "statistics", for each such document record retrieved. These statistics may include an inverse document frequency for each matching word. The engine then ranks the document records in terms of their statistics and returns to the user the document records for a small predefined number of retrieved records, typically 5-20 or less, that have the highest rankings. Once the user has reviewed a first group of document records (or, for some engines, the documents themselves if they are returned by the engine) for a first group of retrieved documents, the user can then request a next group of document records having the next highest rankings, and so forth until all the retrieved document records have been so reviewed."

(Braden-Harder, col. 2, lines 34-56, emphasis added).

Thus, the frequency of keywords shown up in a document is used to rank the document, which is irrelevant to the present invention as claimed.

Further, there is no suggestion within Sonnenberg and Braden-Harder to combine with each other. Even if they were combined, such a combination still lacks the limitations set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over Sonnenberg in view of Braden-Harder.

Similarly, independent claims 8 and 21 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claims 8 and 21 are patentable over Sonnenberg in view of Braden-Harder.

Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, at least for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are patentable over Sonnenberg in view of Braden-Harder. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

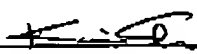
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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